

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China
 SUBJECT Military Conscription in
 Western Fukien

REPORT

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1. [] authorities in Hsuehiachuang (N 26-22, E 116-28) initiated the first of three military conscription programs for men between the ages of 18 and 22 years. The conscription was based on the registration lists from each ch'u, with 170 men being taken from each ch'u. Students and any man who was the only son in a family were exempted. Because of doubtful reliability, the sons of landlords and of rich farmers were also exempted.
2. Groups of students marched with bands to the homes of conscripts to escort them to the central registration point. The physical examination was very strict, and many men were rejected.
3. The conscription program was well organized and lasted one week. Among the local inhabitants there was no unfavorable reaction to the conscription. Many of the conscripts were happy to be going into military service because they expected to improve their living conditions.

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